

# TOP

As to stiff gales *topheavy* pines bow low  
 Their heads, and lift them as they cease to blow. *Pope.*  
**TOPKNOT.** *n. f.* [*top* and *knot*.] A knot worn by women on the top of the head.  
 This arrogance amounts to the pride of an ass in his trappings; when 'tis but his master's taking away his *topknot* to make an ass of him again. *L'Estrange.*  
**TOPMAN.** *n. f.* [*top* and *man*.] The fawer at the top.  
 The pit-law enters the one end of the stuff, the *topman* at the top, and the pitman under him, the *topman* observing to guide the saw exactly in the line. *Moxon's Mech. Exercise.*  
**TOPMOST.** *n. f.* [An irregular superlative formed from *top*.] Uppermost; highest.  
 A swarm of bees,  
 Unknown from whence they took their airy flight,  
 Upon the *topmost* branch in clouds alight. *Dryden's Æn.*  
 From steep to steep the troops advanc'd with pain,  
 In hopes at last the *topmost* cliff to gain;  
 But still by new ascents the mountain grew,  
 And a fresh toil presented to their view. *Addison.*  
 Men pil'd on men with active leaps arise,  
 And build the breathing fabric to the skies;  
 A sprightly youth above the *topmost* row,  
 Points the tall pyramid, and crowns the show. *Addison.*  
**TOPPROUD.** *adj.* [*top* and *proud*.] Proud in the highest degree.  
 This *top-proud* fellow,  
 By intelligence I do know  
 To be corrupt and treasonous. *Shakespeare.*  
**TOPSAIL.** *n. f.* [*top* and *sail*.] The highest sail.  
 Contareus meeting with the Turk's galleys, which would not veil their *topsails*, fiercely assailed them. *Knolles.*  
 Strike, strike the *topsail*; let the main-sheet fly,  
 And furl your sails. *Dryden's Fables.*  
**TOPARCH.** *n. f.* [*τόπος* and *ἀρχή*.] The principal man in a place.  
 They are not to be conceived potent monarchs, but *toparchs*, or kings of narrow territories. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*  
**TOPARCHY.** *n. f.* [*toparch*.] Command in a small district.  
**TOPAZ.** *n. f.* [*topaz*, Fr. *topazius*, low Lat.] A yellow gem.  
 The golden stone is the yellow *topaz*. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
 Can blazing carbuncles with her compare?  
 The *tophas* sent from scorched Meroc?  
 Or pearls presented by the Indian sea? *Sandys's Paraph.*  
 With light's own smile the yellow *topaz* burns. *Thomson.*  
**TO TOPE.** *v. n.* [*topf*, German, an earthen pot; *toppen*, Dutch, to be mad. *Skinner* prefers the latter etymology; *tope*, Fr.] To drink hard; to drink to excess.  
 If you *tope* in form and treat,  
 'Tis the four sauce to the sweet meat,  
 The fine you pay for being great. *Dryden.*  
**TOPE.** *n. f.* [*from tope*.] A drunkard.  
**TOPHACEOUS.** *adj.* [*from tophus*, Lat.] Gritty; stony.  
 Acids mixed with them precipitate a *tophaceous* chalky matter, but not a cheffy substance. *Arbutnot.*  
**TOPHET.** *n. f.* [*תֹּפֶת* Heb. a drum.] Hell; a scriptural name.  
 The pleasant valley of Hinnom, *tophet* thence  
 And black Gehenna called, the type of hell. *Milton.*  
 Fire and darkness are here mingled with all other ingredients that make that *tophet* prepared of old. *Burnet.*  
**TOPICAL.** *adj.* [*from τόπος*.]  
 1. Relating to some general head.  
 2. Local; confined to some particular place.  
 An argument from authority is but a weaker kind of proof; it being but a *topical* probation, and an artificial argument, depending on naked asseveration. *Brown.*  
 Evidences of fact can be no more than *topical* and probable. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
 3. Applied medicinally to a particular part.  
 A woman, with some unusual hemorrhage, is only to be cured by *topical* remedies. *Arbutnot.*  
**TOPICALLY.** *adv.* [*from topical*.] With application to some particular part.  
 This *topically* applied becomes a phænigmus, or rubifying medicine, and is of such fiery parts, that they have of themselves conceived fire and burnt a house. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*  
**TOPICK.** *n. f.* [*topique*, Fr. *τόπος*.]  
 1. A general head; something to which other things are referred.  
 Let them argue over all the *topicks* of divine goodness and human weakness, and whatsoever other pretences sinking sinners catch at to save themselves by, yet how trifling must be their plea! *South's Sermons.*  
 I might dilate on the difficulties, the temper of the people, the power, arts, and interest of the contrary party; but those are invidious *topicks*, too green in remembrance. *Dryd.*  
 The principal branches of preaching are, to tell the people what is their duty, and then convince them that it is so: the *topicks* for both are brought from scripture and reason. *Swift.*  
 All arts and sciences have some general subjects, called *topicks*, or common places; because middle terms are bor-

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rowed, and arguments derived from them for the proof of their various propositions.  
 2. Things as are externally applied to any particular part.  
 In the cure of struma, the *topicks* ought to be discutient. *Wifeman's Surgery.*  
**TORPLESS.** *adj.* [*from torp*.] Having no top.  
 He sent abroad his voice,  
 Which Pallas far off echo'd; who did betwixt them hoise  
 Shril tumult to a *torple's* height. *Chapman's Iliad.*  
**TOROGRAPHER.** *n. f.* [*τόπος* and *γράφω*.] One who writes descriptions of particular places.  
**TOROGRAPHY.** *n. f.* [*topographie*, Fr. *τόπος* and *γραφω*.] Description of particular places.  
 That philosophy gives the exactest *topography* of the extramundane spaces. *Glanville's Sep.*  
 The *topography* of Sulmo in the Latin makes but an awkward figure in the version. *Cromwell.*  
**TORPPING.** *adj.* [*from torp*.] Fine; noble; gallant. A low word.  
 The *torpping* fellow I take to be the ancestor of the fine fellow. *Tatler.*  
**TORPPINGLY.** *adj.* [*from torpping*.] Fine; gay; gallant; shewy. An obsolete word.  
 These *torpping* ghefts be in number but ten,  
 As welcome to daire as beares among men. *Tatler.*  
**TORPPLE.** *v. n.* [*from torp*.] To fall forward; to tumble down.  
 Though bladed corn be lodged and trees blown down;  
 Though castles *torpple* on their warders heads. *Shakespeare.*  
 The wisest aunt telling the saddest tale,  
 Sometime for three-foot stool mistaketh me;  
 Then slip I from her quite, down *torpples* she. *Shakespeare.*  
**TORSTURVY.** *adv.* [*This Skinner fancies to top in turp*.] With the bottom upward.  
 All suddenly was turned *torsturvey*, the noble lord estoons was blamed, the wretched people pitied, and new councils plotted. *Spenser on Ireland.*  
 If we without his help can make a head  
 To push against the kingdom; with his help  
 We shall o'erturn it *torsturvey* down. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*  
 God told man what was good, but the devil furnished it evil, and thereby turned the world *torsturvey*, and brought a new chaos upon the whole creation. *South's Sermons.*  
 Man is but a *torsturvey* creature; his head where his heels should be, grovelling on the earth. *Swift.*  
**TOR.** *n. f.* [*τόπος*, Saxon.]  
 1. A tower; a turret.  
 2. A high pointed rock or hill, whence *tor* in the initial syllable of some local names.  
**TORCH.** *n. f.* [*torche*, French; *torcia*, Italian; *intoritiu*, low Latin.] A wax light generally supposed to be bigger than a candle.  
 Basilus knew, by the wafting of the *torches*, that the night also was far wafted. *Sidney.*  
 Here lies the dusky *torch* of Mortimer,  
 Choak'd with ambition of the meane fort. *Shakespeare.*  
 They light the nuptial *torch*, and bid invoke  
 Hymen. *Milton.*  
 Never was known a night of such distraction;  
 Noise to confus'd and dreadful: *torches* gliding  
 Like meteors, by each other in the streets. *Dryden.*  
 I'm weary of my part;  
 My *torch* is out; and the world stands before me  
 Like a black desert at th' approach of night. *Dryden.*  
**TORCHBEARER.** *n. f.* [*torch* and *bear*.] One whose office is to carry a torch.  
 He did in a genteel manner chaffise their negligence, with making them, for that night, the *torchbearers*. *Sidney, b. i.*  
**TORCHLIGHT.** *n. f.* [*torch* and *light*.] Light kindled to supply the want of the sun.  
 When the emperor Charles had clasp'd Germany almost in his fist, he was forced to go from Ilburg, and as if in a mask, by *torchlight*, to quit every foot he had gotten. *Bacon.*  
 If thou like a child didst fear before,  
 Being in the dark, where thou didst nothing see;  
 Now I have brought thee *torchlight* fear no more. *Davies.*  
**TORCHER.** *n. f.* [*from torch*.] One that gives light.  
 Ere the horses of the sun shall bring  
 Their fiery *torch* his diurnal ring. *Shakespeare.*  
**TORER.** *preterite*, and sometimes participle passive of *tear*.  
 Upon his head an old Scotch cap he wore,  
 With a plume feather all to pieces *tor*. *Spenser.*  
**TORRE.** *v. a.* [*Of this word I cannot guess the meaning*.]  
 Proportion according to rowen or *torre* upon the ground;  
 the more *torre* the less hay will do. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*  
**TORRENT.** *n. f.* [*torren*, French.]  
 1. To put to pain; to harass with anguish; to exasperate.  
 No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine,  
 Unless it be while some tormenting dream  
 Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils. *Shakespeare.*  
 I am glad to be constrain'd to utter what  
 Torments me to conceal. *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*  
 Art thou come to torment us before the time? *Mat. viii.*  
 2. To tease; to vex with importunity.  
 3. To put into great agitation. [*torrente*, Fr. a great storm.]  
 They foaring on main wing *torrent*. *Milton.*  
**TORMENTED.** *adj.* [*torment*, French.]  
 1. Any thing that gives pain.  
 They brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and *torments*, and he healed them. *Mat.*  
 2. Pain; misery; anguish.  
 3. Penal anguish; torture.  
 No prisoners there, inforc'd by *torments*, cry;  
 But fearless by their old tormentors lie. *Sandys's Paraph.*  
 Not sharp revenge, not hell itself can find  
 A fiercer *torment* than a guilty mind,  
 Which day and night doth dreadfully accuse,  
 Condemns the wretch, and still the charge renews. *Dryd.*  
**TORMENTOR.** *n. f.* [*torment*.]  
 1. One who torments; one who gives pain.  
 He called to me for succour, desiring me at least to kill him, to deliver him from those *tormentors*. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
 Let his *tormentor* conscience find him out. *Milton.*  
 The commandments of God being conformable to the dictates of right reason, man's judgment condemns him when he violates any of them; and so the finner becomes his own *tormentor*. *South's Sermons.*  
 2. One who inflicts penal tortures.  
 No prisoners there, inforc'd by *torments*, cry,  
 But fearless by their old *tormentors* lie. *Sandys on Job.*  
 Hadst thou full pow'r to kill,  
 Or measure out his torments by thy will;  
 Yet, what could'st thou, *tormentor*, hope to gain,  
 Thy loss continues unrepaired by pain. *Dryden's Juv.*  
 The ancient martyrs pass'd through such new inventions  
 and varieties of pain as tired their *tormentors*. *Addison.*  
**TORMENTILL.** *n. f.* [*tormentilla*, Fr. *tormentilla*, Lat.] Septfoil. A plant.  
 The root has been used for tanning of leather, and accounted the best affragrant in the whole vegetable kingdom. *Miller.*  
 Refresh the spirits externally by some epithemata of balm, beglols, with the powder of the roots of *tormentilla*. *Wifeman.*  
**TORN.** *part. pass. of tear.*  
 Ye shall not eat any flesh that is *torn* of beasts. *Exod. xxii.*  
**TORNADO.** *n. f.* [*tornado*, Spanish.] A hurricane; a whirlwind.  
 Nimble convulsions strike the eye,  
 And bold *tornado's* bluster in the sky. *Garth.*  
**TORPEDO.** *n. f.* [*Lat*.] A fish which while alive, if touched even with a long stick, benumbs the hand that so touches it, but when dead is eaten safely.  
**TORPENT.** *adj.* [*torpens*, Latin.] Benumbed; struck motionless; not active; incapable of motion.  
 A comprehensive expedient to assist the frail and *torpent* memory through to multifarious an employment.  *Evelyn.*  
**TORPID.** *adj.* [*torpidus*, Latin.] Numb; motionless; sluggish; not active.  
 Without heat all things would be *torpid* and without motion. *Ray on the Creation.*  
 The sun awakes the *torpid* sap. *Thomson's Spring.*  
**TORPIDNESS.** *n. f.* [*from torpid*.] The state of being torpid.  
 Though the object about which it is exercised be poor, little, and low, yet a man hath this advantage by the exercise of this faculty about it, that it keeps it from rest and *torpidness*, it enlargeth and habituates it for a due improvement even about nobler objects. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
**TORPIDITY.** *n. f.* [*from torpid*.] State of being motionless; numbness; sluggishness.  
 Some, in their most perfect state, subsist in a kind of *torpidity* or sleeping state. *Derham.*  
**TURPOR.** *n. f.* [*Latin*.] Dulness; numbness; inability to move; dulness of sensation.  
 Motion discusses the *torpor* of solid bodies, which, beside their motion of gravity, have in them a natural appetite not to move at all. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. No. 763.*  
**TORREFACTION.** *n. f.* [*torrefaction*, Fr. *torrefacio*, Latin.] The act of drying by the fire.  
 When torrefied sulphur makes bodies black, why does *torrefaction* make sulphur itself black. *Boyle on Colours.*  
 If it have not a sufficient insolation it looketh pale; if it be sunned too long it suffereth *torrefaction*. *Brown.*  
**TORREFF.** *v. a.* [*torrefier*, Fr. *torrefacio*, Lat.] To dry by the fire.  
 In the sulphur of bodies *torrefied* consist the principles of inflammability. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
 The Africans are more peculiarly scorched and *torrefied* from the sun by addition of dryness from the soil. *Brown.*  
 Divers learned men assign, for the cause of blackness, the sooty steam of adust, or *torrefied* sulphur. *Boyle on Colours.*  
 Torrefied sulphur makes bodies black; I desire to know why *torrefaction* makes sulphur itself black? *Boyle.*  
 Another clifter is compoed of two hemina of white wine,

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half a hemina of honey, Egyptian nitre *torrefied* a quadrant. *Arbutnot on Colins.*  
**TORRENT.** *n. f.* [*torrent*, Fr. *torrens*, Lat.]  
 1. A sudden stream raised by summer showers.  
 The near in blood,  
 Forsake me like the *torrent* of a flood. *Sandys on Job.*  
 Will no kind flood, no friendly rain,  
 Disguise the marshall's plain disgrace;  
 No *torrents* swell the low Mohayne,  
 The world will say he durst not pass. *Prior.*  
 2. A violent and rapid stream; tumultuous current.  
 Not far from Caucasus are certain steep falling *torrents*,  
 which wash down many grains of gold, as in many other parts of the world; and the people there inhabiting use to set many fleeces of wool in these descents of waters, in which the grains of gold remain, and the water passeth through, which Strabo witnesseth to be true. *Raleigh.*  
 The memory of those who, out of duty and confidence, opposed that *torrent* which did overwhelm them, should not lose the recompence due to their virtue. *Clarendon.*  
 When thrivell'd herbs on with'ring stems decay,  
 The wary ploughman, on the mountain's brow,  
 Undams his wat'ry stores, huge *torrents* flow,  
 Temp'ring the thirsty fever of the field. *Dryden's Georg.*  
 Erasmus, that great injur'd name,  
 Stemm'd the wild *torrent* of a barb'rous age. *Pope.*  
**TORRENT.** *adj.* [*torrens*, Lat.] Rolling in a rapid stream.  
 Fierce Phlegeton,  
 Whose waves of *torrent* fire inflame with rage. *Milton.*  
**TORRID.** *adj.* [*torride*, Fr. *torridus*, Lat.]  
 1. Parched; dried with heat.  
 Galen's commentators mention a twofold dryness; the one concomitated with a heat, which they call a *torrid* tabes; the other with a coldness, when the parts are consumed through extinction of their native heat. *Harvey on Consump.*  
 2. Burning; violently hot.  
 This with *torrid* heat,  
 And vapours as the Libyan air adust,  
 Began to parch that temperate clime. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
 3. It is particularly applied to the regions or zone between the tropicks.  
 Columbus first  
 Found a temp'rate in a *torrid* zone;  
 The feverish air fann'd by a cooling breeze. *Dryden.*  
 Those who amidst the *torrid* regions live,  
 May they not gales unknown to us receive?  
 See daily show'rs rejoice the thirsty earth,  
 And blebs the flow'ry buds succeeding birth. *Prior.*  
**TORSEL.** *n. f.* [*torse*, Fr.] Any thing in a twisted form.  
 When you lay any timber on brickwork, as *torsels* for mantle trees to lie on, or lintols over windows, lay them in loam. *Moxon's Mech. Exercises.*  
**TORSION.** *n. f.* [*torso*, Lat.] The act of turning or twisting.  
**TORT.** *n. f.* [*tort*, Fr. *tortum*, low Latin.] Mischief; injury; calamity. Obsolete.  
 Then gain triumphant trumpets found on high,  
 That sent to heaven the echoed report  
 Of their new joy, and happy victory  
 Against him that had been long oppress'd with *tort*,  
 And fast imprisoned in sieged fort. *Pa. Qu. b. i.*  
 He dreadful bad them come to court,  
 For no wild beasts should do them any *tort*. *Spenser.*  
 Your disobedience and ill managing  
 Of actions, lost for want of due support,  
 Refer I justly to a further spring,  
 Spring of sedition, strife, oppression, *tort*. *Fairfax, b. i.*  
**TORTILE.** *n. f.* [*torilis*, Lat.] Twisted; wreathed.  
**TORTION.** *n. f.* [*from tortus*, Latin.] Torment; pain. Not in use.  
 All purgers have a raw spirit or wind, which is the principal cause of *tortion* in the stomach and belly. *Bacon.*  
**TORTIOUS.** *adj.* [*from tort*.] Injurious; doing wrong. *Spens.*  
**TORTIVE.** *adj.* [*from tortus*, Lat.] Twisted; wreathed.  
 Knots by the conflux of meeting sap,  
 Infect the found pine, and divert his grain  
 Tortive and errant from his course of growth. *Shakespeare.*  
**TORTOISE.** *n. f.* [*tortue*, French.]  
 1. An animal covered with a hard shell: there are tortoises both of land and water.  
 In his needy shop a *tortoise* hung,  
 An alligator stult. *Shakespeare.*  
 A living *tortoise* being turned upon its back, not being able to make use of its paws for the returning of itself, because they could only bend towards the belly, it could help itself only by its neck and head; sometimes one side, sometimes another, by pushing against the ground, to rock itself as in a cradle, to find out where the inequality of the ground might permit it to roll its shell. *Ray on the Creation.*  
 2. A form into which the ancient soldiers used to throw their troops, by bending down and holding their bucklers above their heads so that no darts could hurt them.  
 Their